**Kaziranga National Park**

2021. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kaziranga National Park is facing environmental degradation;

(b) whether Government are also aware that due to the National Highway No. 37, the animals in the park are scared and a rhino has recently been killed in accident; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to protect the Park and the one horned Rhino from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No environmental degradation in the Kaziranga National Park has been reported.

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Highway No. 37 is a source of disturbance for the animals in the Kaziranga National Park. In June, 1989, one rhino was killed in a road accident due to the traffic on this highway.

(c) Steps taken to protect the Kaziranga National Park and the rhino from extinction include:

(i) Stringent measures against poaching, encroachment, etc. in the Park are taken under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Assistance under the Centrally sponsored scheme 'Conservation of rhinos in Assam' is provided for strengthening measures in the Kaziranga National Park against poaching, floods, fires, and encroachment and for acquisition of land to expand its area. Under this scheme, additional protection squads, equipped with arms, wireless sets, vehicles, boats etc., have been created. This scheme covers all the natural habitats of the rhino in Assam.

(iii) The rhino is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus giving the species maximum possible legal protection. Under this act, there is a complete ban on hunting of wildlife.

(iv) India is a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), under which international trade in rhino and its products is prohibited.

(v) A number of zoos in India have been successfully breeding the Indian rhino.

(vi) With a view to provide an alternate home for the rhinos, a number of them were successfully translocated from Assam and Nepal to the Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh.

**मेरठ शहर में प्रदूषण**

2022. **श्रीमती सत्या बहिन**: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के घनी आबादी वाले मेरठ शहर में स्थित प्लास्टिक और इस्पात पाइपों का उत्पादन करने वाले कारखानों से अत्यधिक प्रदूषण उत्पन्न हो रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे कारखानों की संख्या कितनी है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में प्राप्त शिकायतों पर सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है?

**पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ)**: (क) और (ख) मेरठ शहर में 18 प्लास्टिक और 38 इस्पात पाइप इकाइयां हैं। लेकिन ये बहुत अधिक प्रदूषण नहीं फैला रही हैं।

(ग) उन तीन इकाइयों को सम्बन्धित अधिनियम के तहत नोटिस जारी किए गए हैं जिनके विरुद्ध उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड को शिकायत दर्ज कराई गई है।

**Rural Fuel Wood Plantation Programme**

2023. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the centrally-sponsored Rural Fuel Wood Plantation Programme is under implementation;

(b) the number of districts in those States where such scheme has been implemented;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the scheme to some more districts in different States; and

(d) if so, the districts proposed to be covered under the above programme in various States during Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Centrally sponsored scheme of Rural Fuelwood Plantations was under implementation in 159 districts during the

Seventh Plan period in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Goa and Union Territory of Delhi. At the end of the Seventh Plan this scheme was discontinued and its components on fuelwood plantations have been merged with the Centrally sponsored scheme for Fuelwood and Fodder Projects, which is now under implementation. The State Governments have to provide matching share and the main criteria for inclusion of districts under the scheme is fuelwood and fodder scarcity.

(d) Details of the Eighth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised.

**Aids Infection**

2024. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations had observed 1st, December, 1991 as the World AIDS Day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the spread of AIDS infection is found in all the States/Union Territory in the country;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take for the prevention/control of AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI, D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Due to the logistical difficulties of providding sophisticated HIV screening materials to all parts of the country, the epidemiological pattern *i.e.* spread of AIDS/HIV infection in the general population has yet to be clearly identified. However, in most areas where screening is possible, HIV infection has been detected. As on 1st February, 1992, out of 12,73,829 persons (at risk behaviour) screened, 6683 have been found to be HIV positive. *i.e.* at the rate of 5.25 per thousand. State-wise break up is available only upto December, 1991 and given in statement enclosed [*see* below].

(b) The National AIDS Control Programme was started in 1987 for prevention and control of AIDS. The activities undertaken so far include:—

— organising a surveillance system for determining the prevalence and infectivity trends in groups practising high risk behaviour.

— promoting safety of blood and blood products by establishment of testing facilities for screening blood in blood banks on a zonal basis.

— health education.

— formulation of guidelines for hospital infection control

— strengthening of 13 regional hospitals and training of clinicians and para medical staff in diagnosis and management of HIV infected patients.

— implementing focused activity plans in States/UTs where a relatively larger number of HIV infected parsons have been detected on the basis of surveillance.

Negotiations have been concluded recently with the World Bank for funding the National AIDS Project for a period of five years beginning April, 1992 involving an outlay of US $100 million (Rs. 270 crores). Under this project prevention and control activities will be implemented throughout the country.